

The County of Centre

PROCLAMATION

NUMBER 21 OF 2020

WHEREAS, the physical and emotional scars of domestic violence can cast a long shadow. Too many individuals, regardless of age, ability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, circumstance, or race, face the pain and fear of domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, during National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, we shine a light on this violation of the basic human right to be free from violence and abuse, pledge to ensure every victim of domestic violence knows they are not alone, and foster supportive communities that help survivors seek justice and enjoy full and healthy lives; and

WHEREAS, we pledge to advocate on behalf of those who have been assaulted at home, and to make every effort to prevent domestic violence from happening in the first place; and

WHEREAS, we call on residents of Centre County to stand up against domestic violence, speak up against victim blaming, listen to victims and change one thing in your community to end domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, reports have shown that during this COVID-19 pandemic there is real potential for domestic violence to be a lot worse, as victims are spending more time with their abuser and find themselves isolated in violent homes, without safe access to resources or friend and family networks, and in general, as people are experiencing more stress and conflict at home, there is increased likelihood that a conflict can become aggressive or lethal; and

WHEREAS, we all have a role to play in building a bright and safe future for each other and for future generations. This month, we recommit to standing with survivors of domestic violence and to doing our utmost to extend hope and healing to all who need it.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED in recognition of the work done by the numerous organizations and individuals who work to prevent and eliminate violence, and provide critical advocacy, services and assistance to victims, the Centre County Board of Commissioners do hereby proclaim the month of **October** as **Domestic Violence Awareness Month** and urge all citizens to speak out against violence and support local efforts to assist victims of these crimes.

ADOPTED this 29th day of September 2020.



CENTRE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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